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686CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Bulgaria  
SUBJECT Military Factory Fire at Gabrovo  
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DATE (OF INFO.) 3 Dec 53

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1. The seventy workers arrested in Jul 1953, as a result of the fire in the Valco Chervenkov factory at Gabrovo, making cloth for army uniforms, have been released (very late Oct or early Nov 1953). The fire destroyed 15,000 meters of a fabric called "DOG," used for uniforms. Both the press and the radio have maintained absolute silence, mentioning neither the fire nor the arrests. Even in Gabrovo, people were forbidden to discuss the matter.
2. The released workers themselves maintain absolute silence. It is, however, known that they were kept in the prisons of the Derjavna Sigurnost.
3. There are a good many such fires. At about the time of the Gabrovo fire, there was another fire in regimental barracks. This was set by the mess detail. Several soldiers were arrested. It is not clear which regiment was involved.
4. Early in Jul 1953 a fire broke out in the lycée at Sevlievo. Many students were arrested in this case.

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